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COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 22 Dec 1948

SUBJECT Establishment of Communist "Revolutionary Committee" NO. OF PAGES 2

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. During the month of November the Ecuadoran Communist Party branch in Guayaquil was actively engaged in cooperating with both political and military revolutionary elements in that area. The Party branch in Quito, on the other hand, was relatively quiet politically. On 30 November, however, at a closed meeting of the Central Committee in Quito, the Party position in the event of a revolution in Ecuador was discussed.
2. Gustavo Becerra, head of intelligence matters for the Party, stated that the focal point of opposition to the government undoubtedly was in Guayaquil where aggressive work is being carried on. He did not believe the movement for a revolt among the military in Quito had advanced to the action stage. Political opposition in Quito is merely anti-Plaza and no definite steps have been taken to organize all opposition factions into a revolutionary movement.
3. It was suggested that the time was opportune for the Party to organize all opposition groups in Quito and in Guayaquil and to form a revolutionary political front to cooperate with the military in overthrowing the government. As a result a "Revolutionary Committee" was appointed to carry out the organizational work.
4. The Revolutionary Committee's first objective was to contact all opposition leaders to join in a coalition against the incumbent government. This was to be done through personal contact, with an explanation at the same time that the movement has already made considerable progress in Guayaquil, and that with the support of the Army, it cannot fail. The Communists reportedly have not approached any of the would-be military revolutionary leaders in Quito. The Revolutionary Committee was to refrain from making contact with military men until they were prepared to say that they represented a coalition front of all political parties in Quito against the government.
5. Meanwhile Pedro Saad, who is in charge of the Revolutionary Committee, is presently in Guayaquil reviewing the political and military situation. It is anticipated that upon Saad's return to Quito, he will have achieved a program of action whereby the coastal and sierra regional branches of the Party will participate in any full-scale revolutionary movement.
6. The above-mentioned political activity of the Communist Party is believed to be predicated upon two basic concepts:

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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a. The Communists, incapable of staging their own revolution successfully, want to avoid having any anti-government movement identified as Communist inspired;

b. Any revolt against the government should receive the full support of the Communists, but under the name of the originating movement.

In this manner the Communists hope to aid in the overthrow of the government, but at the same time maintain good relations with any new administration.

25X1A6a ~~Comment.~~ The Communists will have two obstacles to overcome: the apathy or inertia of the anti-government groups; and the reluctance of these groups to participate in any movement with the Communists.)

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